

ARIZONA NEWS RELEASE

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STATE DURUM WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST LOWER THAN LAST YEAR

Phoenix – In its first production forecast of the 2006 season, the Arizona office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service forecast the State's Durum wheat crop at 210,000 tons, down 11 percent from the 2005 crop. Area for harvest is estimated at 70,000 acres, yielding an average of 6,000 pounds per acre, unchanged from a year ago.

Final figures on Arizona's 2005 cotton crop show area planted to upland varieties totaled 230,000 acres with 229,000 acres harvested. Due to above normal spring precipitation, crop development was behind the five-year average leading to a yield of 1,289 pounds per acre, 169 pounds lower than the record high yield of 1,458 pounds set last year. Final production was 615,000 bales, 15 percent lower than in 2004. Pima cotton was planted and harvested from 4,100 acres, 1,100 acres more than last year. Yields averaged 820 pounds per acre, down 76 pounds from the previous season. Final Pima production totaled 7,000 bales, 1,400 more bales than a year ago. Total cottonseed production was estimated at 262,500 tons, down 13 percent from 2004.